

# A Taxonomy and Survey of Intrusion Detection System Design Techniques, Network Threats and Datasets

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With the world moving towards being increasingly dependent on computers and automation, one of the main challenges in the current decade has been to build secure applications, systems and networks. Alongside these challenges, the number of threats is rising exponentially due to the attack surface increasing through numerous interfaces offered for each service. To alleviate the impact of these threats, researchers have proposed numerous solutions; however, current tools often fail to adapt to ever-changing architectures, associated threats and 0-days. This manuscript aims to provide researchers with a taxonomy and survey of current dataset composition and current Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS) capabilities and assets. These taxonomies and surveys aim to improve both the efficiency of IDS and the creation of datasets to build the next generation IDS as well as to reflect networks threats more accurately in future datasets. To this end, this manuscript also provides a taxonomy and survey of network threats and associated tools. The manuscript highlights that current IDS only cover 25% of our threat taxonomy, while current datasets demonstrate clear lack of real-network threats and attack representation, but rather include a large number of deprecated threats, hence limiting the accuracy of current machine learning IDS. Moreover, the taxonomies are open-sourced to allow public contributions through a Github repository.

## ACM Reference Format:

Hanan Hindy, David Brosset, Ethan Bayne, Amar Seeam, Christos Tachtatzis, Robert Atkinson, and Xavier Bellekens. 2018. A Taxonomy and Survey of Intrusion Detection System Design Techniques, Network Threats and Datasets. 1, 1 (June 2018), 35 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/nnnnnnn.nnnnnnn>

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The world is becoming more dependent on connected actuators and sensors, regulating the life of millions of people. Furthermore, sensor data is expected to increase by around 13%, reaching 35% of overall data communication by 2020, reaching a peak of 50 billion connected devices and an increased Internet traffic reaching 30 GB on average per capita compared to around 10 GB in

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XXXX-XXXX/2018/6-ART \$15.00

<https://doi.org/10.1145/nnnnnnn.nnnnnnn>

2016 [17]. While each of these devices in IoT system exchange collected data, associated services often provide numerous interfaces to interact with the collected data, often increasing the attack surface, highlighting the importance of network security. Therefore, it is crucial to build robust tools to defend networks against security threats. Current detection tools are often based on outdated datasets which, do not reflect the reality of network attacks, rendering the Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS) ineffective against new threats and 0-days. To the best knowledge of the authors, there is currently no survey and taxonomy manuscript analysing available datasets, nor providing a taxonomy of the current network threats and the tools associated with them. The contributions of this paper are threefold:

- An Intrusion detection systems survey and taxonomy is presented, including:
  - An IDS Design Taxonomy
  - IDS Evaluation Metrics
  - A survey of IDS Implementations
- Evaluation of available datasets
- A Threat taxonomy is presented, categorized by:
  - The Threat Sources
  - The Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) Layer
  - Active or Passive modes
  - As well as an example of recent attacks

The rest of the paper is organized as follows; Section 2 depicts the main differences between intrusion detection systems and their main evaluation metrics. In section 3, IDS of the past decade are reviewed and their individual contributions are assessed. Moreover, available datasets are discussed highlighting their drawbacks and limitations. Section 4 provides a threat taxonomy.

## 2 INTRUSION DETECTION SYSTEMS

IDS are defined as systems built to monitor and analyse network communication, as a result of monitoring, and hence detect anomalies and intrusions.

Current IDS taxonomies focus on a single aspect of the IDS, such as the machine learning algorithms that researchers can potentially use [32] [38], the characteristics of intrusion detection systems [20] [6], or the features that should be used by researchers to design an IDS [91]. While these provide valuable information, these surveys do not provide an global overview dedicated to the design of next-generation IDS, but rather focus on a narrow field. In this section, a broad taxonomy dedicated to the design of intrusion detection system is presented including the different features an IDS can be composed of.

Figure 1 provides a taxonomy of intrusion detections systems. Figure 1 (Branch 1) includes the general attributes characterizing IDS such as their role in the network, the information provided by the intrusion detection system, the system requirements, and their usage. Branch 2 describes the attributes related to the types of decisions, infrastructure in place, as well as their computational location. Branch 3 includes the evaluation metrics. Branch 4 provides a descriptive analysis of their location on the network. Branch 4 also includes an analysis of the triggers. Branch 5 places intrusion detection systems in the context of Mobile Ad hoc Networks (MANETS), and finally, Branch 6 highlights the shortcomings of IDS in the context of Wireless Sensor Networks (WSN) [13]. The different branches are subsequently described in Sections 2.1 through 2.4.

### 2.1 IDS Design Taxonomy

As mentioned, machine learning based IDS focuses on detecting misbehaviour in networks. When an intrusion is detected the IDS is expected to log the information related to the intrusion (1.1.1).

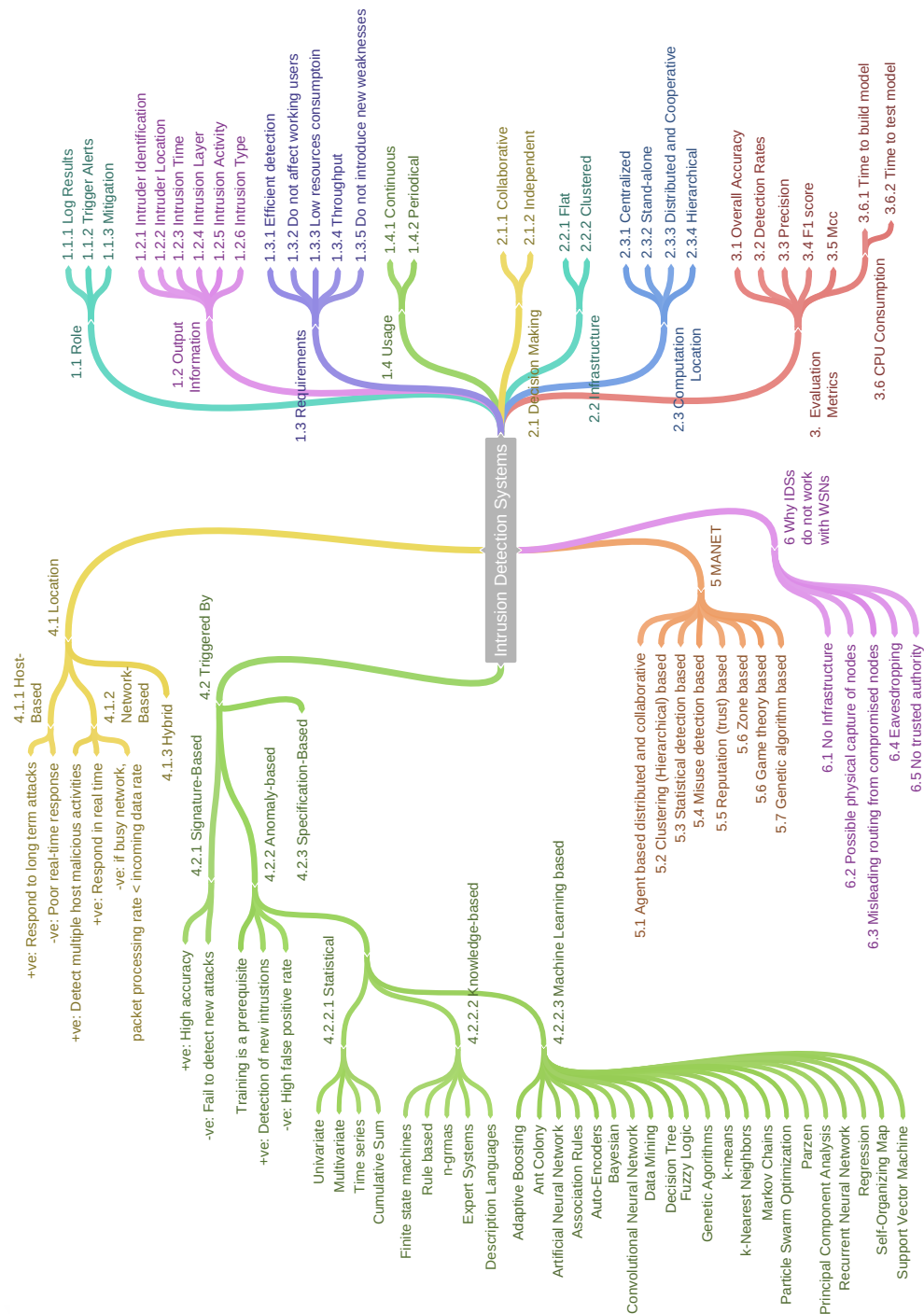


Fig. 1. Intrusion Detection Systems

These logs can then be used by network forensic investigators to further analyse the breach or for the learning process of the IDS itself. IDS are also expected to trigger alerts (1.1.2). The alert should provide information on the threat detected, and the affected system. By raising an alert, authorized users can take corrective action and mitigate the threat. Intrusion Detection System should also include a mitigation feature, giving the ability of the system to take corrective actions (1.1.3) [13].

In order to build an efficient intrusion detection system, the output information provided by the IDS to the end user is critical for analysis. The information recorded should contain intruder identification information (1.2.1) and location (1.2.2) for each event. IP addresses and user credentials are used to identify the intruder. The system design should be modular to adapt to the environment, i.e. [66] propose to use biometric data to identify intruders. Additionally, log information can contain metadata related to the intrusion, such as timestamp (1.2.3), intrusion layer (i.e. OSI) (1.2.4), intrusion activity (1.2.5) whether the attack is active or passive and finally, the type of intrusion (1.2.6) [13].

In order for an IDS to be considered effective, the detection rate (1.3.1) and low false positive rate are key aspects to consider. These can be evaluated using different metrics discussed in section 2.3. Other important factors include the transparency and safety of the overall system (1.3.2). The overall performance of the system has to be taken into account, these include memory requirements, power consumption (1.3.3) and throughput (1.3.4). Lastly, the IDS should not introduce abnormal behavior (1.3.5), hence a testing procedure should be set in place before deployment. The procedure can include fuzzing to detect anomalies and bugs in the IDS. Such anomalies could be exploited by an attacker to render the IDS useless or initiate a denial of service attack [13].

## 2.2 Distributed IDS

IDS can be distributed over multiple nodes in the network. Intrusion decisions in this case, can be made in a collaborative or swarm like (2.1.1) fashion, or independent (2.1.2) manner. In a collaborative manner, multiple nodes share a single decision. This collaboration can use statistical techniques such as voting and game theory, while in an independent mode, all decisions are made by individual nodes on the network.

Moreover, in this distributed manner, when all nodes are working with the same capacity, it is considered a flat (2.2.1) infrastructure, unlike a clustered infrastructure (2.2.2) where the nodes belong to clusters with different capabilities, each contributing to the decisions in a different manner. The computation location is another aspect of distributed IDS. The centralized computation location (2.3.1) works on data collected from the whole network. Unlike the centralized, the stand-alone computation location (2.3.2) works on local data, disregarding decisions from other nodes. A combination of both centralized and stand-alone, can also be achieved through cooperative computation, such that each node can detect an intrusion on its own but also contributes to the overall decision. Finally, IDS can also operate in hierarchal computation (2.3.4), where a cluster send all intrusion detection to root node, where a decision is taken [13].

## 2.3 IDS Accuracy

A high detection rate is essential in a machine learning based IDS alongside the evaluation metrics aforementioned. The main aspects to consider when measuring the accuracy are

- True Positive (TP): Number of intrusions correctly detected
- True Negative (TN): Number of non-intrusions correctly detected
- False Positive (FP): Number of non-intrusions incorrectly detected
- False Negative (FN): Number of intrusions incorrectly detected

Hodo *et al.* [38], Buse *et al.* [9] and Aminanto *et al.* [7] discuss the main metrics to consider in their respective work. These include the overall accuracy, decision rates, precision, recall, F1 and Mcc.

$$OverallAccuracy = \frac{TP + TN}{TP + TN + FP + FN} \quad (1)$$

Equation 1 provides the user with the probability that an item is correctly classified by the algorithm. Detection Rates :

$$\begin{aligned} Sensitivity (aka Recall) &= \frac{TP}{TP + FN} \\ Specificity &= \frac{TN}{TN + FP} \\ Fallout &= \frac{FP}{TN + FP} \\ Miss Rate &= \frac{FN}{TP + FN} \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

Equation 2 calculates the TP, TN, FP and FN detection rates respectively.

$$Precision = \frac{TP}{TP + FP} \quad (3)$$

Equation 3 provides the percentage of positively classified incidents that are truly positive.

$$F1 = \frac{2TP}{2TP + FP + FN} \quad (4)$$

Equation 4 represents the harmonic mean of precision and recall.

$$Mcc = \frac{(TP \times TN) - (FP \times FN)}{\sqrt{(TP + FP)(TP + FN)(TN + FP)(TN + FN)}} \quad (5)$$

Equation 5 provides Matthews correlation coefficient. It can only be used in binary IDS in which incidents are classified as either attack or normal.

Additionally, the CPU consumption, the throughput and the power consumption are important metrics for the evaluation of intrusion detection systems running on different hardware on specific settings such as high-speed networks, or on hardware with limited resources.

## 2.4 IDS Internals

The location of IDS on the network can tremendously impact the threat detection, hence the overall accuracy of the system. As shown in Figure 1 (4.1), IDS can be located on a host computer, or inline and respond in real time to threats (4.1.2). Note that the detection rate of an inline IDS often degrades when used on a busy network. A hybrid system (4.1.3) being distributed both on the hosts and through the network can also be implemented, using hosts as sensors for swarm intelligence.

The detection method is an important aspect of all intrusion detection system (4.2). Signature-based (4.2.1) IDS are based on prior threat detection and the creation of accurate signatures. The main advantage of this method is the high accuracy for known attacks. The IDS is , however, unable to detect 0-days and polymorphic threats [12]. Signature-based is also known as 'Misuse Detection'. Anomaly-based (4.2.2) depends on identifying patterns and comparing them to normal traffic patterns. This method requires training the system prior to deploying it. The accuracy of such

a system against 0-days and polymorphic threats is better when compared against signature-based IDS. However, the false positive rate is often high.

Anomaly-based IDS are based on identifying patterns defining normal and abnormal traffic. These IDS can be classified into subcategories based on the training method used. These categories are identified respectively as statistical, knowledge-based and machine learning based. Statistical (4.2.2.1) includes univariate, multivariate and time series. Knowledge-based (4.2.2.2) uses finite state machines and rules like case-based, n-based, expert systems and descriptor languages. Finally, machine learning includes artificial neural networks, clustering, genetic algorithms, deep learning, ... Specification-based (4.2.3) combines the strength of both signature and anomaly based to form a hybrid model.

2.5 Industrial IDS

Industrial Intrusion Detection Systems face different challenges, than traditional IDS. The automation of processes included in industrial network architectures often make use of specialized hardware for specific industries such as petrochemical, aerospace, etc. These hardwares use specific communication protocols such as ModBus, Profibus ...

Table 1 summarizes how the industrial settings differ from traditional ones. Including the dependency on embedded systems, hardware - such as PLC, Data Logger, etc - are an important aspect of the network. Unlike traditional networks, PLCs are unable to run an integrated IDS due to limited processing power. Moreover, the network architecture is fixed and rarely changes, as industrial processes often cover a limited range of functions. These systems can be used for decades without updates. However, industrial processes have a predictable element, which should be taken into account when designing the IDS [106].

Table 1. Industrial Processes VS Traditional Processes

|                              | Industrial Processes  | Traditional Processes    |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Hardware Involvement         | Yes                   | No                       |
| Network Topology             | Fixed                 | Dynamic                  |
| Functionality                | Fixed and Small range | Wide range               |
| Protocols                    | Simple                | Complex                  |
| Resources                    | Limited               | Highly accessible        |
| Performance and Availability | Requires real-time    | Not dominant requirement |
| Behaviour                    | Predictable           | Unpredictable            |

2.6 Feature Selection

"Feature Learning" [7] or "Feature Engineering" [28] plays an important role in building any IDS in a way that chosen features highly affect the accuracy. Different features representations can be used to address different areas of threat detection. Some of them are considered naive when they contain basic information about the software or network. Others are considered rich when they represent deeper details [28].

Obtaining features can be done using one of the following processes or a combination of them.

- Construction
- Extraction
- Selection

Feature construction creates new features by mining existing ones by finding missing relations within features. While extraction works on raw data and/or features and apply mapping functions to extract new ones. Selection works on getting a significant subset of features. This helps reduce the feature space and reduce the computational power.

Feature selection can be done through three approaches, as shown in Table 2, filter, wrapper and embedded.

Table 2. Feature Selection Approaches

| Approach      | Description   | Advantages                               | Disadvantages                             |
|---------------|---|--|---|
| Filter [33]   | Selects the most meaningful features regardless the model | Low Execution Time and over-fitting      | May choose redundant variables            |
| Wrapper [65]  | Combine related variables to have subsets                 | Consider interactions                    | Over-fitting risk and High execution time |
| Embedded [35] | Investigate interaction in a deeper manner than Wrapper   | Result in an optimal subset of variables | –   |

In the following section a survey of recent IDS is presented.

3 IDS AND DATASETS SURVEY

In the past decade numerous IDS were developed and evaluated against a range of published available datasets. In this Section, these datasets are summarized, and their limitations highlighted. Furthermore, recent IDS are analysed discussing algorithms used and the datasets the IDS were evaluated against. Moreover, the trends in the algorithms used by research over the past decade are discussed, highlighting a clear shift in the use of specific algorithms.

3.1 IDS and Associated Datasets

Researchers depended on benchmark datasets to evaluate their results. However, the datasets currently available lack real-life properties. This is the reason that made most of the anomaly intrusion detection systems not applicable for production environments [92], furthermore, they unable of adapting to the constant changes in networks (i.e. new nodes, changing traffic loads, changing topology, etc ...).

Viegas *et al.* [92] mentioned that for a dataset to be considered, it has to cover the following properties: (a) Real network traffic (similar to production ones), (b) Valid, such that it has complete scenarios. (c) Labeled, specifying the class of each record as normal or attack, (d) Variant, (e) Correct, (f) Can be updated easily, (g) Reproducible in order to give researchers the space to compare across different datasets, and finally (h) Sharable, hence it should not contain any confidential data. Additionally, Iman et al [75] mentions that (i) having variant protocols is an important aspect of IDS dataset, as well as (j) having an appropriate documentation for the feature and dataset collection environment.

A benchmark for dataset is presented in [75]. The benchmark include DARPA [49], KDD’99 [36], DEFCON [30], CAIDA [26], LBNL [50], CDX [73], Kyoto [81], Twente [82], UMASS [67], ISCX2012 [27] and ADFA [18]. While the evaluation includes the attacks in each dataset and the features are compared, the authors fail to provide a detailed analysis of the broader impact of their benchmark.

In this manuscript, a survey of machine learning IDS is provided, analyzing the associated datasets and their short-comings.

Table 3.1 introduces the most pre-eminent (i.e. most cited) IDS research from the past decade. Each IDS is mentioned with a list of the algorithms used and the datasets the IDS was evaluated against. Moreover, the attacks detected are also listed.

The algorithmic trends are then discussed alongside the attacks included in the datasets used.



Table 3. A Decade of Intrusion Detection Systems (2008 - 2018)

| Year | Authors                        | Paper Title  | Dataset   | Used Algorithms  | Detected Attacks   | Ref  |
|------|--------------------------------|--|---|--|--|------|
| 2008 | Cheng Xiang <i>et al.</i>      | Design of Multiple-Level Hybrid Classifier for Intrusion Detection System using Bayesian Clustering and Decision Trees | KDD-99  | - Tree Classifiers<br>- Bayesian Clustering  | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R                                       | [99] |
| 2008 | Giorgio Giacinto <i>et al.</i> | Intrusion Detection in Computer Networks by a Modular Ensemble of One-class Classifiers                                | KDD-99  | - Parzen Classifier<br>- v-SVC<br>- k-means  | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R                                       | [29] |
| 2008 | Kaustav Das <i>et al.</i>      | Anomaly Pattern Detection in Categorical Datasets  | 1)PIERS<br>2)Emergency Department Dataset<br>3)KDD-99 | APD<br>- Bayesian Network Likelihood<br>- Conditional Anomaly Detection<br>- WSARE | 1) Illegal activity in imported containers<br>2) Anthrax<br>3) DoS and R2L | [19] |
| 2008 | Weiming Hu <i>et al.</i>       | AdaBoost-based Algorithm for Network Intrusion Detection   | KDD-99  | - AdaBoost   | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R                                       | [41] |
| 2009 | Arman Tajbakhsh <i>et al.</i>  | Intrusion Detection using Fuzzy Association Rules  | KDD-99  | - ABC<br>- Fuzzy Association Rules   | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R                                       | [87] |
| 2009 | D. Sánchez <i>et al.</i>       | Association Rules Applied to Credit Card Fraud Detection   | Collected transactions dataset                        | - Fuzzy Association Rules  | - Credit Card Fraud  | [71] |

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Table 3 – A Decade of Intrusion Detection Systems (2008 - 2018) Continued

| Year | Authors                            | Paper Title   | Dataset    | Used Algorithms   | Detected Attacks                     | Ref  |
|------|------------------------------------|---|------------|---|--------------------------------------|------|
| 2009 | Kamran Shafi and Hussein A. Abbass | An Adaptive Genetic-based Signature Learning System for Intrusion Detection                   | KDD-99     | - Genetic-based   | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [74] |
| 2009 | Su-Yun Wu and Ester Yen            | Data mining-based Intrusion Detectors   | KDD-99     | - C4.5  | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [98] |
| 2009 | Tich Phuoc Tran <i>et al.</i>      | Novel Intrusion Detection using Probabilistic Neural Network and Adaptive Boosting            | KDD-99     | BSPNN using:<br>- Adaptive Boosting<br>- Semi-parametric NN | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [90] |
| 2009 | Xiaojun Tong <i>et al.</i>         | A Research using Hybrid RBF/Elman Neural Networks for Intrusion Detection System Secure Model | 1999 DARPA | - RBF<br>- Elman NN   | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [88] |
| 2009 | Wei Lu and Hengjian Tong           | Detecting Network Anomalies Using CUSUM and EM Clustering                                     | 1999 DARPA | - SNORT<br>- Non-Parametric CUSUM<br>- EM based Clustering  | 13 Attack Types                      | [57] |
| 2010 | Gang Wang <i>et al.</i>            | A New Approach to Intrusion Detection using Artificial Neural Networks and Fuzzy Clustering   | KDD-99     | FC-ANN based on:<br>- ANN<br>- Fuzzy Clustering             | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [94] |
| 2010 | Min Seok Mok <i>et al.</i>         | Random Effects Logistic Regression Model for Anomaly Detection                                | KDD-99     | - Logistic Regression                                       | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [60] |

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Table 3 – A Decade of Intrusion Detection Systems (2008 - 2018) Continued

| Year | Authors                                    | Paper Title  | Dataset           | Used Algorithms  | Detected Attacks  | Ref  |
|------|--|--|-------------------|--|---|------|
| 2010 | Muna Mhammad T. Jawhar and Monica Mehrotra | Design Network Intrusion Detection System using hybrid Fuzzy-Neural Network                                  | KDD-99            | - NN<br>- FCM Clustering   | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R  | [42] |
| 2011 | Cynthia Wagner <i>et al.</i>               | Machine Learning Approach for IP-Flow Record Anomaly Detection   | Generated dataset | - OCSVM  | - Nachi scan<br>- Netbios scan<br>- DDoS UDP flood<br>- DDoS TCP flood<br>- stealthy DDoS UDP flood<br>- DDoS UDP flood + traffic deletion Popup spam<br>- SSH scan + TCP flood | [93] |
| 2011 | Dewan Md. Farid <i>et al.</i>              | Adaptive Intrusion Detection based on Boosting and Naive Bayesian Classifier                                 | KDD-99            | - AdaBoost<br>- NB   | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R  | [68] |
| 2011 | Ming-Yang Su                               | Real-time Anomaly Detection Systems for Denial-of-Service Attacks by Weighted k-Nearest-Neighbor Classifiers | KDD-99            | - Genetic Algorithm<br>- Weighted k-NN                                 | - DoS/DDoS  | [84] |
| 2011 | Mohammad Saniee Abadeh <i>et al.</i>       | Design and Analysis of Genetic Fuzzy Systems for Intrusion Detection in Computer Networks                    | KDD-99            | Genetic Fuzzy Systems based on:<br>- Michigan<br>- Pittsburgh<br>- IRL | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R  | [2]  |

Continued on next page

Table 3 – A Decade of Intrusion Detection Systems (2008 - 2018) Continued

| Year | Authors                             | Paper Title   | Dataset | Used Algorithms  | Detected Attacks                     | Ref   |
|------|-------------------------------------|---|---------|--|--------------------------------------|-------|
| 2011 | Phurivit Sangkatsanee <i>et al.</i> | Practical Real-time Intrusion Detection using Machine Learning Approaches                   | KDD-99  | - DT<br>- Ripper Rule<br>- Back-Propagation NN<br>- RBF NN<br>- Bayesian Network<br>- NB | - Probing<br>- DoS                   | [72]  |
| 2011 | Seungmin Lee <i>et al.</i>          | Self-adaptive and Dynamic Clustering for Online Anomaly Detection                           | KDD-99  | - SOM<br>- K-means clustering  | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [51]  |
| 2011 | Shun-Sheng Wang <i>et al.</i>       | An Integrated Intrusion Detection System for Cluster-based Wireless Sensor Networks         | KDD-99  | - Rule-Based<br>- BON<br>- ART Network   | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [95]  |
| 2011 | Yang Yi <i>et al.</i>               | Incremental SVM based on Reserved Set for Network Intrusion Detection                       | KDD-99  | - SVM  | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [102] |
| 2011 | Z. Muda <i>et al.</i>               | Intrusion Detection Based on K-Means Clustering and Naïve Bayes Classification              | KDD-99  | - K-Means<br>- NB  | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [61]  |
| 2012 | A.S. Aneetha and S. Bose            | The Combined Approach for Anomaly Detection using Neural Networks and Clustering Techniques | KDD-99  | - Modified SOM<br>- k-means  | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [8]   |

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Table 3 – A Decade of Intrusion Detection Systems (2008 - 2018) Continued

| Year | Authors                        | Paper Title   | Dataset    | Used Algorithms   | Detected Attacks                     | Ref  |
|------|--------------------------------|---|------------|---|--------------------------------------|------|
| 2012 | Carlos A. Catria <i>et al.</i> | An Autonomous Labeling Approach to Support Vector Machines Algorithms for Network Traffic Anomaly Detection | 1998 DARPA | - SVM   | - Attack and Non-Attack              | [14] |
| 2012 | Chi Cheng <i>et al.</i>        | Extreme Learning Machines for Intrusion Detection   | 1998 DARPA | ELMs:<br>- Basic<br>- Kernel-Based  | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [16] |
| 2012 | Inho Kang <i>et al.</i>        | A Differentiated One-class Classification Method with Applications to Intrusion Detection                   | 1998 DARPA | - SVDD  | - U2R                                | [44] |
| 2012 | Levent Koc <i>et al.</i>       | A Network Intrusion Detection System Based on a Hidden Naïve Bayes Multiclass Classifier                    | KDD-99     | - Hidden NB   | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [47] |
| 2012 | Shih-Wei Lin <i>et al.</i>     | An Intelligent Algorithm with Feature Selection and Decision Rules Applied to Anomaly Intrusion Detection   | KDD-99     | - SVM<br>- DT<br>- SA   | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [54] |
| 2012 | Siva S. Sindhu <i>et al.</i>   | Decision Tree Based Light Weight Intrusion Detection using a Wrapper Approach                               | KDD-99     | Ensemble DTs:<br>- Decision Stump<br>- C4.5<br>- NB Tree<br>- Random Forest<br>- Random Tree<br>- Representative Tree model | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [79] |

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Table 3 – A Decade of Intrusion Detection Systems (2008 - 2018) Continued

| Year | Authors   | Paper Title  | Dataset    | Used Algorithms  | Detected Attacks                     | Ref   |
|------|---|--|------------|--|--------------------------------------|-------|
| 2012 | Yinhui Li <i>et al.</i>                               | An Efficient Intrusion Detection System based on Support Vector Machines and Gradually Feature Removal Method    | KDD-99     | - K-means<br>- Ant Colony<br>- SVM   | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [53]  |
| 2013 | A. M. Chandrashekhara and K. Raghuvveer               | Fortification of Hybrid Intrusion Detection System using Variants of Neural Networks and Support Vector Machines | KDD-99     | - Fuzzy C means<br>- Fuzzy NN / Neurofuzzy<br>- RBF SVM  | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [15]  |
| 2013 | Dahlia Asyiqin Ahmad Zainaddin and Zurina Mohd Hanapi | Hybrid of Fuzzy Clustering Neural Network over NSL Dataset for Intrusion Detection System                        | NSL-KDD    | - Fuzzy Clustering NN  | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [104] |
| 2013 | Mazyar Mohammadi Lisehroodi <i>et al.</i>             | A Hybrid Framework based on Neural Network MLP and K-means Clustering for Intrusion Detection System             | KDD-99     | - K-means<br>- NN MLP  | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [56]  |
| 2013 | S. Devaraju S. Ramakrishnan                           | Detection of Accuracy for Intrusion Detection System using Neural Network Classifier                             | KDD-99     | - FFNN<br>- ENN<br>- GRNN<br>- PNN<br>- RBNN   | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [21]  |
| 2013 | Seongjun Shin <i>et al.</i>                           | Advanced Probabilistic Approach for Network Intrusion Forecasting and Detection                                  | DARPA 2000 | Advanced Probabilistic Approach for Network-based IDS (APAN) using:<br>- Markov Chain<br>- Kmeans Clustering | - DDoS                               | [76]  |
| 2013 | Warusia Yassin <i>et al.</i>                          | Anomaly-based Intrusion Detection Through kmeans Clustering and Naives Bayes Classification                      | ISCX 2012  | - K-Means Clustering and NB Classifier called KMC+NBC  | - Normal and Attack                  | [101] |

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Table 3 – A Decade of Intrusion Detection Systems (2008 - 2018) Continued

| Year | Authors  | Paper Title  | Dataset                 | Used Algorithms   | Detected Attacks                     | Ref  |
|------|--|--|-------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|------|
| 2013 | Yusuf Sahin <i>et al.</i>                          | A Cost-Sensitive Decision Tree Approach for Fraud Detection  | Bank's Credit Card Data | - DT  | - Fraud                              | [70] |
| 2013 | Zubair A. Baig <i>et al.</i>                       | GMDH-based Networks for Intelligent Intrusion Detection  | KDD-99                  | Two variants of GMDH:<br>- Monolithic<br>- Ensemble-based                   | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [11] |
| 2013 | Zubair Md. Fadlulah <i>et al.</i>                  | Intrusion Detection System (IDS) for Combating Attacks Against Cognitive Radio Networks                    | Simulated dataset       | Non-Parametric CUSUM  | - Jamming                            | [24] |
| 2014 | Akhilesh Kumar Shrivastava and Amit Kumar Dewangan | An Ensemble Model for Classification of Attacks with Feature Selection based on KDD99 and NSL-KDD Data Set | - KDD-99<br>- NSL-KDD   | ANN-Bayesian ensemble:<br>- ANN<br>- Bayesian Net with GR feature selection | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [78] |
| 2014 | Gisung Kim <i>et al.</i>                           | A Novel Hybrid Intrusion Detection Method Integrating Anomaly Detection with Misuse Detection              | NSL-KDD                 | - C4.5 DT<br>- One-class SVM  | -                                    | [46] |
| 2014 | Ravi Ranjan and G. Sahoo                           | A New Clustering Approach for Anomaly Intrusion Detection  | KDD-99                  | K-medoids   | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [69] |
| 2014 | Wenying Feng <i>et al.</i>                         | Mining Network Data for Intrusion Detection Through Combining SVMs with Ant Colony Networks                | KDD-99                  | - SVM<br>- CSOACN   | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [25] |

Continued on next page

Table 3 – A Decade of Intrusion Detection Systems (2008 - 2018) Continued

| Year | Authors                                      | Paper Title  | Dataset                              | Used Algorithms   | Detected Attacks                     | Ref  |
|------|--|--|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|------|
| 2015 | Adel Sabry Eesa <i>et al.</i>                | A Novel Feature-selection Approach based on the Cuttlefish Optimization Algorithm for Intrusion Detection Systems                            | KDD-99                               | - DT<br>- Cuttlefish Optimization Algorithm (Feature Selection) | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [22] |
| 2015 | Bisyron Wahyudi Masduki <i>et al.</i>        | Study on Implementation of Machine Learning Methods Combination for Improving Attacks Detection Accuracy on Intrusion Detection System (IDS) | Reduced sample of GureKddcup6percent | - SVM   | - R2L                                | [58] |
| 2015 | Wei-Chao Lin <i>et al.</i>                   | CANN: An Intrusion Detection System based on Combining Cluster Centers and Nearest Neighbors   | KDD-99                               | - K-means<br>- k-NN   | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [55] |
| 2015 | Worachai Srimuang and Silada Intarathonchun. | Classification Model of Network Intrusion using Weighted Extreme Learning Machine  | KDD-99                               | - Weighted ELM  | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [83] |
| 2016 | Amal Hadri <i>et al.</i>                     | Intrusion Detection System using PCA and Fuzzy PCA Techniques  | KDD-99                               | - PCA and Fuzzy PCA<br>- k-NN                                   | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [31] |
| 2016 | Basant Subba <i>et al.</i>                   | Enhancing Performance of Anomaly Based Intrusion Detection Systems through Dimensionality Reduction using Principal Component Analysis       | NSL-KDD                              | - PCA<br>- SVM<br>- MLP<br>- C4.5<br>- NB                       | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [85] |

Continued on next page



Table 3 – A Decade of Intrusion Detection Systems (2008 - 2018) Continued

| Year | Authors                                | Paper Title  | Dataset                          | Used Algorithms                                      | Detected Attacks                     | Ref   |
|------|--|--|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|-------|
| 2016 | Elike Hodo <i>et al.</i>               | Threat analysis of IoT networks Using Artificial Neural Network Intrusion Detection System | Simulated dataset                | - ANN  | DoS/DDoS                             | [37]  |
| 2016 | Piyush A. Sonewar and Sonali D. Thosar | Detection of SQL Injection and XSS Attacks in Three Tier Web Applications                  | Generated dataset using httpperf | - Mapping  | - SQL Injection<br>- XSS             | [80]  |
| 2016 | Praneeth NSKH <i>et al.</i>            | Principle Component Analysis based Intrusion Detection System Using Support Vector Machine | KDD-99                           | - SVM<br>- PCA                                       | - Normal and Attack                  | [63]  |
| 2017 | Arief Rama Syarif and Windu Gata       | Intrusion Detection System using Hybrid Binary PSO and K-Nearest Neighborhood Algorithm    | KDD-99                           | - Binary PSO<br>- k-NN                               | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [86]  |
| 2017 | Binhan Xu <i>et al.</i>                | Incremental k-NN SVM Method in Intrusion Detection   | KDD-99                           | - R-tree<br>- k-NN<br>- K-means<br>- SVM             | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [100] |
| 2017 | Chau Tran <i>et al.</i>                | HA-IDS: A Heterogeneous Anomaly-based Intrusion Detection System                           | Generated dataset                | - GPU-based ANN<br>- Back-propagation NN             | Normal and Attack                    | [89]  |
| 2017 | Chuanlong Yin <i>et al.</i>            | A Deep Learning Approach for Intrusion Detection Using Recurrent Neural Networks           | NSL-KDD                          | -DL RNN  | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [103] |
| 2017 | David Ahmad Efenfy <i>et al.</i>       | Classification of Intrusion Detection System (IDS) Based on Computer Network               | NSL-KDD                          | - K-means<br>- NB<br>- k-means<br>- Information Gain | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [23]  |

Continued on next page

Table 3 – A Decade of Intrusion Detection Systems (2008 - 2018) Continued

| Year | Authors                              | Paper Title   | Dataset           | Used Algorithms  | Detected Attacks   | Ref   |
|------|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------|--|--|-------|
| 2017 | Elike Hodo <i>et al.</i>             | Machine Learning Approach for Detection of nonTor Traffic   | UNB-CIC           | - ANN<br>- SVM   | nonTor Traffic   | [39]  |
| 2017 | Qingru Li <i>et al.</i>              | An Intrusion Detection System Based on Polynomial Feature Correlation Analysis  | KDD-99            | - Polynomial Feature Correlation   | - DoS  | [52]  |
| 2017 | Shengchu Zhao <i>et al.</i>          | A Dimension Reduction Model and Classifier for Anomaly-Based Intrusion Detection in Internet of Things                      | KDD-99            | - PCA<br>- Softmax Regression<br>- k-NN  | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R   | [105] |
| 2017 | Untari N. Wisesty and Adiwijaya      | Comparative Study of Conjugate Gradient to Optimize Learning Process of Neural Network for Intrusion Detection System (IDS) | KDD-99            | - Optimized Backpropagation by Conjugate Gradient algorithm (Fletcher Reeves, Polak Ribiere, Powell Beale)       | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R   | [97]  |
| 2018 | Di He <i>et al.</i>                  | An Improved Kernel Clustering Algorithm Used in Computer Network Intrusion Detection  | KDD-99            | Kernel Clustering  | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R   | [34]  |
| 2018 | Mohamad Nazrin Napiiah <i>et al.</i> | Compression Header Analyzer Intrusion Detection System (CHA - IDS) for 6LoWPAN Communication Protocol                       | Simulated Dataset | - MLP<br>- SVM<br>- J48<br>- NB<br>- Logistic<br>- Random Forest<br>Features Selection:<br>- BFS-CFS<br>- GS-CFS | Individual and Combination Routing Attacks:<br>- Hello Flood<br>- Sinkhole<br>- Wormhole | [62]  |

Continued on next page

Table 3 – A Decade of Intrusion Detection Systems (2008 - 2018) Continued

| Year | Authors                          | Paper Title   | Dataset                  | Used Algorithms                   | Detected Attacks                     | Ref  |
|------|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------|
| 2018 | Mohammed Hasan Ali <i>et al.</i> | A New Intrusion Detection System Based on Fast Learning Network and Particle Swarm Optimization       | KDD-99                   | - FLN<br>- PSO                    | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [5]  |
| 2018 | Muna Hawawreh <i>et al.</i>      | Identification of Malicious Activities in Industrial Internet of Things based on Deep Learning Models | - NSL-KDD<br>- UNSW-NB15 | - Deep Auto-Encoder<br>- ANN      | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [4]  |
| 2018 | Nathan Shone <i>et al.</i>       | A Deep Learning Approach to Network Intrusion Detection   | - KDD-99<br>- NSL-KDD    | - DL<br>- NDAE<br>- Stacked NDAEs | - Probing<br>- DoS<br>- R2L<br>- U2R | [77] |

Where:

- \* ABC: Association Based Classification

\* ANN: Artificial Neural Network

\* APD: Anomaly Pattern Detection

\* ART: Adaptive Resonance Theory

\* BFS-CFS: Best First Search with Correlation Features Selection

\* BON: Back-Propagation Network

\* BSPNN: Boosted Subspace Probabilistic Neural Network

\* CSOACN: Clustering based on Self-Organized Ant Colony Network

\* CUSUM: CUmulative SUM

\* DL: Deep Learning

\* DoS: Denial of Service

\* DT: Decision Tree

\* ELM: Extreme Learning Machine

\* ENN: Elman Neural Network

\* FCM: Fuzzy C-Mean

\* FFNN: Feed Forward Neural Network

\* FLN: Fast Learning Network
- \* IRL: Iterative Rule Learning

\* k-NN: k-Nearest Neighbors

\* MLP: Multi-Layer Perceptron

\* NB: Naïve Bayes

\* NDAE: Non-Symmetric Deep Auto-Encoder

\* NN: Neural Network

\* OCSVM: One Class Support Vector Machine

\* PCA: Principal Component Analysis

\* PNN: Probabilistic Neural Network

\* PSO: Particle Swarm Optimization

\* R2L: Remote to Local

\* RBF: Radial Basis Function

\* RBNN: Radial Basis Neural Network

\* RNN: Recurrent Neural Networks

\* SA: Simulated Annealing

\* SOM: Self-Organizing Map

\* SVDD: Support Vector Data Description

Continued on next page

Table 3 – A Decade of Intrusion Detection Systems (2008 - 2018) Continued

| Year | Authors   | Paper Title | Dataset | Used Algorithms                             | Detected Attacks | Ref |
|------|---|-------------|---------|---|------------------|-----|
|      | * GMDH: Group Method for Data Handling                        |             |         | * SVM: Support Vector Machine               |                  |     |
|      | * GR: Gain Ratio  |             |         | * U2R: User to Root                         |                  |     |
|      | * GRNN: Generalized Regression Neural Network                 |             |         | * WSARE: What’s Strange About Recent Events |                  |     |
|      | * GS-CFS: Greedy Stepwise with Correlation Features Selection |             |         | * XSS: Cross Site Scripting                 |                  |     |

Figure 2 shows the distribution of datasets used for research in the last decade. Only 11% of the mentioned IDS used generated or simulated datasets. It is also clear through this analysis that most datasets lack real-life properties which was previously in Section 3.1. Figure 2 also highlights the use of KDD-99 as the dataset of choice. This dataset is deprecated, hence, this demonstrates the inability of the intrusion detection systems presented in Table 3.1 to cope with the most recent attacks.

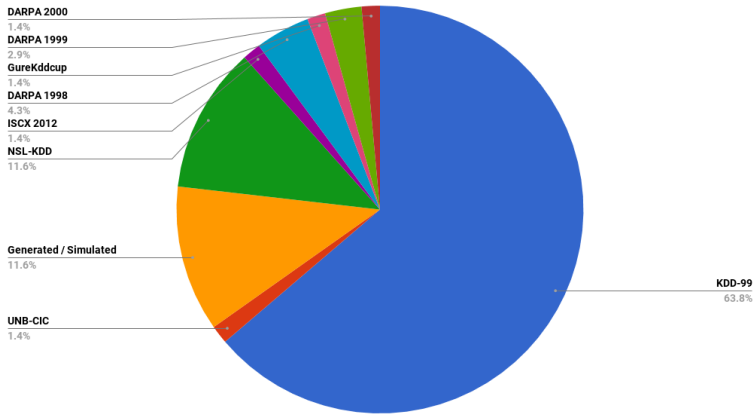


Fig. 2. Distribution of Datasets Used for Evaluation over Discussed IDSs

Figure 3 visualize the attacks detected by the different IDS presented in Table 3.1. It is shown, that the 4 attacks available in the KDD-99 dataset are the most covered, namely; DoS/DDoS, Probing, R2L, U2R.

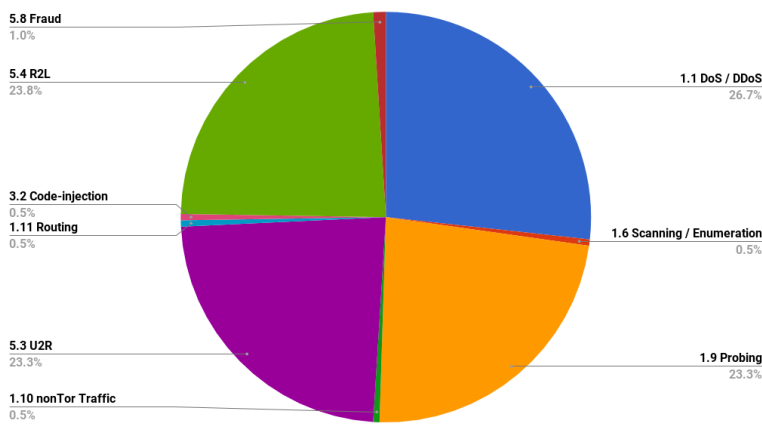


Fig. 3. Covered Attacks in Discussed IDS

Figure 4 (a) highlights the dominance of machine learning algorithms, when building an IDS. As shown, both statistical and knowledge-based algorithms are less represented. Figure 4 (a) is

organized by the categories defined in Figure 1 (Inner Circle), The algorithms defined in Figure 1 (4.2.2.2) (Center Circle) and finally the percentage of the IDS presented in Table 3.1 using these algorithms (Outer Circle). Figure 4 (b) on the other hand, provides a visualization of the distribution of the algorithms used by the IDS presented in Table 3.1. It is shown that ANN, SVM and k-means are the most used algorithms overall.



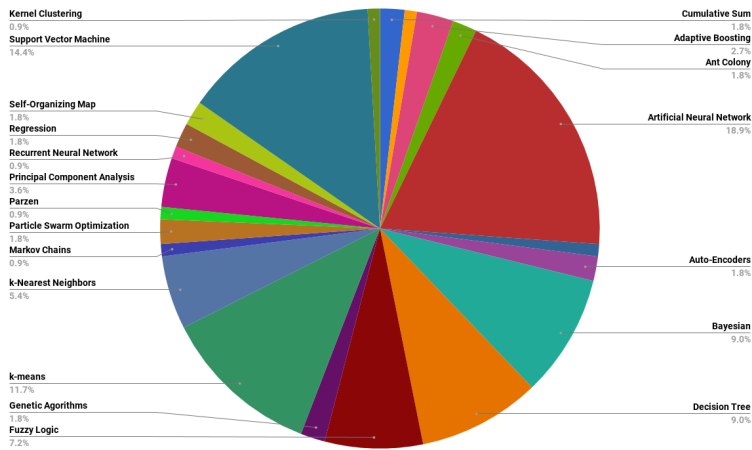
(a) Distribution of all algorithms discussed in Figure 1

## 4 THREATS TAXONOMY

Building a generic and modular taxonomy for security threats is of high importance in order to help researchers and cyber-security practitioners building tools capable of detecting various attacks ranging from known to 0-day attacks.

Kendall *et al.* [45] proposed one of the earliest classifications of intrusions [92]. Kendall classified intrusions into four categories namely: Denial of Service (DoS), Remote to Local (R2L), User to Root (U2R) and Probing. In DoS, the attacker tend to prevent users from accessing a given service. When the attacker tried to gain authorized access to the target system, either by gaining a local access or promoting the user to a root user, these attacks were classified as R2L and U2R respectively. Finally, probing was defined, by an attacker actively foot printing a system for vulnerabilities.

Donald Welch classified the common threats in wireless networks into seven attack techniques (Traffic Analysis, Passive Eavesdropping, Active Eavesdropping, Unauthorized Access, Man-in-the-middle, Session High-Jacking and Replay) [96]. In a paper by Sachin Babar *et al.* [10], the problem is addressed from a different perspective. Threats are classified according to the Internet of things security requirements (identification, communication, physical threat, embedded security and storage management). Specific domain taxonomies have also grabbed the attention of researchers. David Kotz [48] discusses privacy threats in mobile health (mHealth) domain. In the same manner,



(b) Distribution of used algorithms discussed in Table 3.1

Fig. 4. Algorithms usage distribution in the discussed IDSs

Keshnee Padayachee [64], shows the security threats targeting compliant information and Monjur Ahmed and Alan T. Litchfield [3] works on threats from a cloud computing point of view.

This Section classifies network threats based on the layers of the OSI model, provides examples of attacks for different threat types and provides a taxonomy associating network threats and the tools used to carry out attacks. The taxonomies aim at helping researchers building IDS, but more importantly by associating the threats to the OSI model, as well as the threats to the tools used to carry attack or take advantage of specific vulnerabilities, the taxonomies aim at achieving higher accuracies and reducing the amount of false positives of current intrusion detection systems [77] as well as building better datasets.

4.1 Threat Sources

Figure 5 identify network threats and provides a classification according to the following criteria (I) Source of the threat, (II) Affected layer based on Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) model and (III) Active and Passive threats. The different threats are described hereafter (Note that the taxonomy is available through a Github repository for public access and contributions <sup>1</sup>).

As shown, attacks can be targeting a single layer of the OSI model, but it is important to highlight that other layers may also be affected. The taxonomy presented in this manuscript focus on the main target layer of attack. An attack is also described to be active if it affects information, performance or any aspect of the media on which it is running. In contrast to active attacks, during passive attacks the attacker is concerned with either gathering information or monitoring the network. These can be identified by their shape in Figure 5. Active attacks are represented by a *rectangle shape*, while passive attacks are represented by an *oval shape*. Attacks like adware (2.1.3), spyware (2.1.4) and information gathering (3.1) are considered passive attacks. DoS (1.1), Impersonation (1.4) and Virus (2.1.2) are forms of active attacks. However, some attacks cannot be considered active or passive until their usage is known. An example of this case are SQL-injections, if it is used for

<sup>1</sup><https://github.com/AbertayMachineLearningGroup/network-threats-taxonomy>

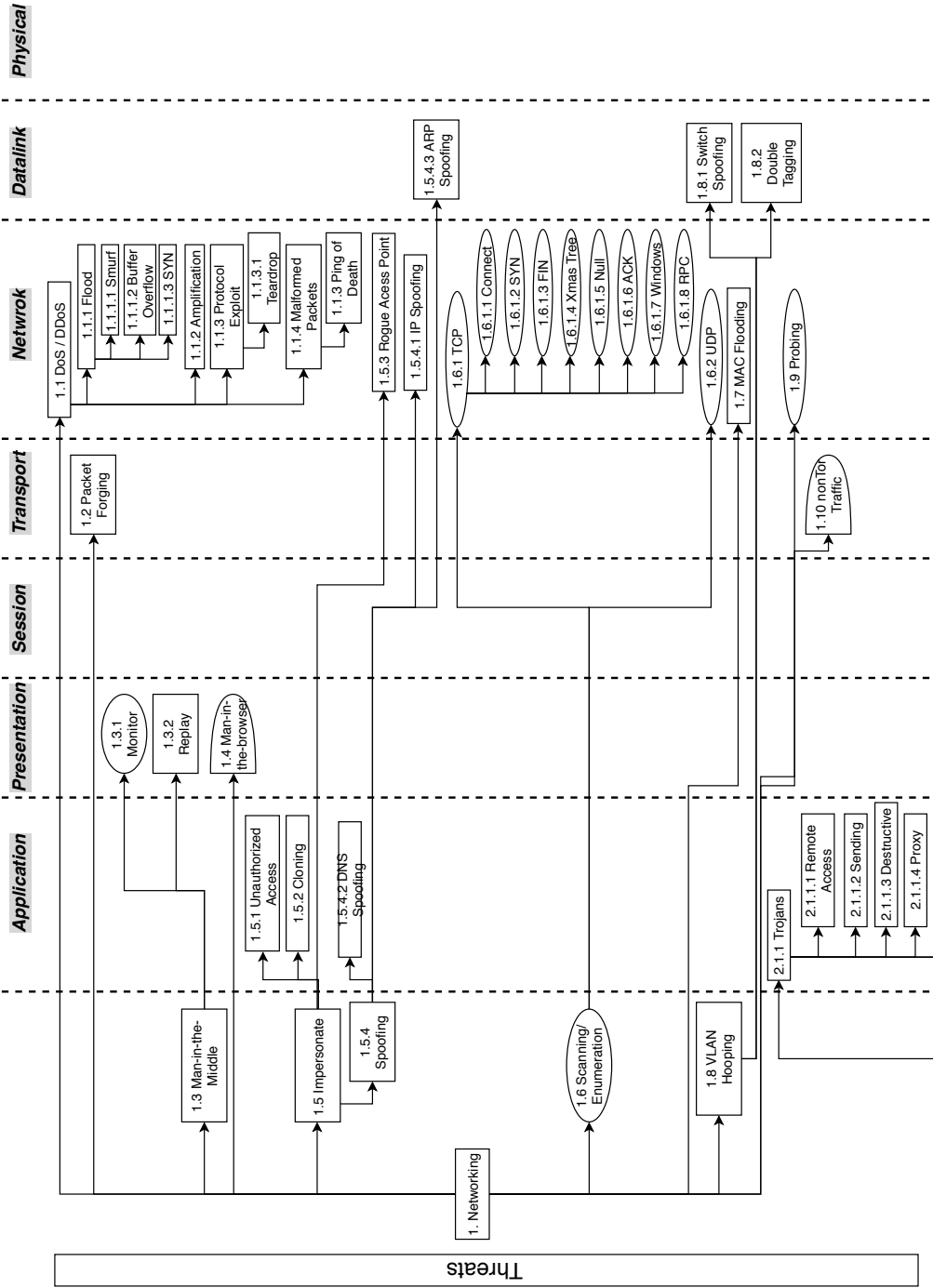


Fig. 5. Taxonomy of threats (1 of 2)



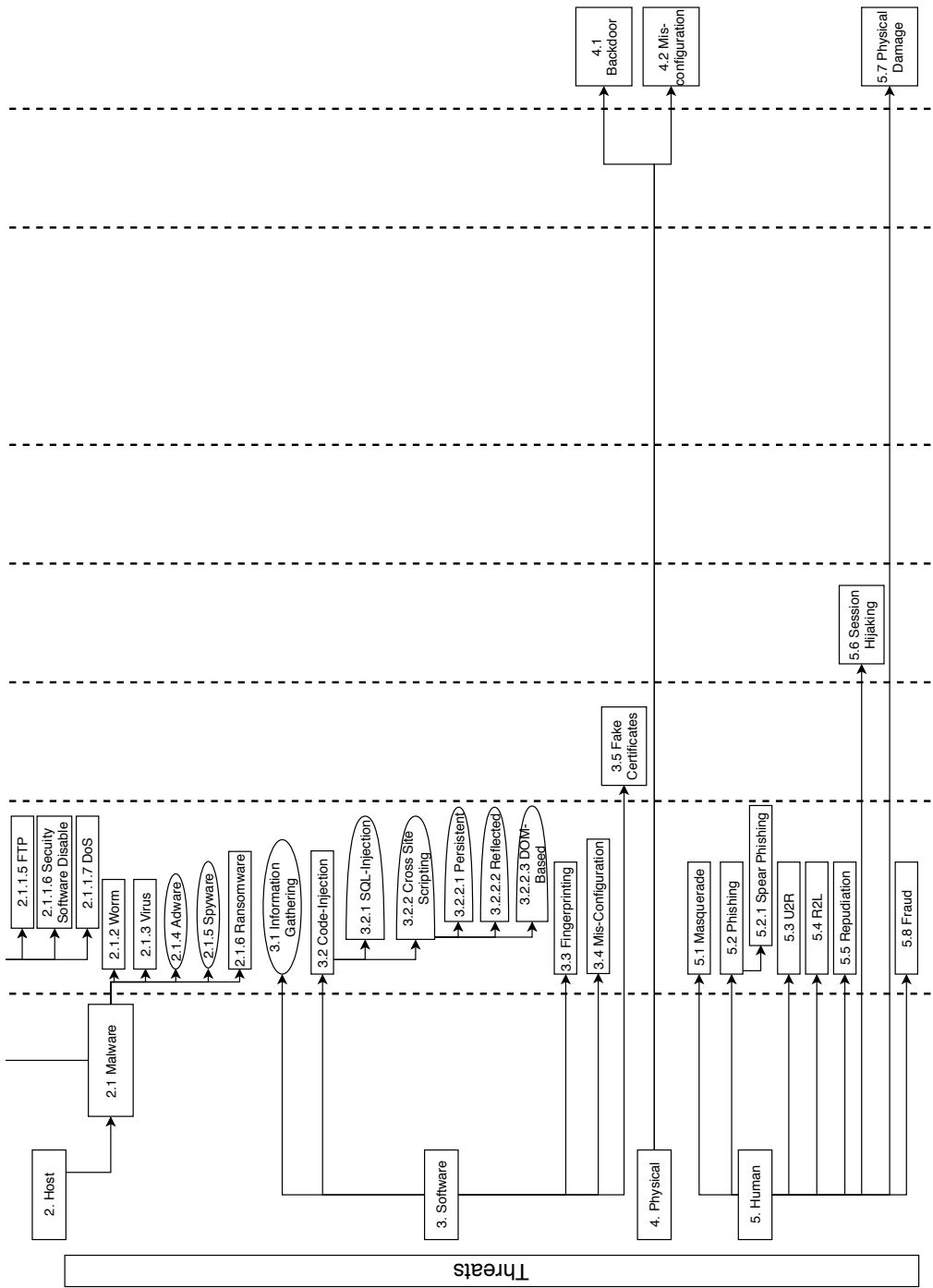


Fig. 5. Taxonomy of threats (2 of 2)

querying data from a database then it is passive. However, if it is used to alter data, drop tables or relations then the attack can be considered as active.

**4.1.1 Network Threats.** Threats are initiated based on a flow of packet sent over a network. Two of the most common forms of network threats are Denial of Service (DoS) and Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) (1.1) where an attacker floods the network with requests rendering the service unresponsive. During Attacks legitimate users cannot access the services. Note that common anomalies known as 'Flash Crowds' are often mistaken with DoS and DDoS attacks [43]. Dos and DDoS can be divided in four categories including flood attacks (1.1.1), amplification attacks (1.1.2), protocol exploit (1.1.3), and malformed packets (1.1.4). These are defined respectively through attack examples. Smurf attacks (1.1.1.1) depends on generating a large amount of ping requests. Overflows (1.1.1.2) occurs when a program writes more bytes than allowed. This occurs when an attacker sends packets larger than 65536 bytes (allowed in the IP protocol) and the stack does not have an appropriate input sanitation in place. The ping of Death (1.1.4.1) attack occurs when packets are too large for the routers and splitting is required. The Teardrop (1.1.3.1) attack takes place when an incorrect offset is set by the attacker. Finally the SYN flood (1.1.1.3) attack happens when the host allocates memory for a huge number of TCP SYN packets.

Packet forging (1.2) is another form of networking attack. Packet forging or injection is the action in which the attacker generates packets that look the same as those of the network. These packets can be used to perform certain action, steal information, etc. When the attacker intercepts communications between two or more entities and starts to either control the communication between them and alter the communication or listen to the network, this attack is referred to as a 'Man in the Middle' attack (1.3). Unlike 'Man in the Middle' attack, a 'Man In The Browser' attack (1.4) intercepts the browser to alter or add fields to a web page asking the user to enter confidential data. Impersonation (1.5) or pretending to be another user can take different forms. The attacker may impersonate a user to gain higher security level and gain access to unauthorized data (1.5.1) or use cloned accounts, cloning (1.5.2) is common in social networks. Another impersonation form in wireless networks are rogue access points (1.5.3). During an IP spoofing (1.5.4.1) attack an attacker spoofs an IP address and sends packets impersonating a legitimate host. DNS spoofing - also known as DNS cache poisoning - (1.5.4.2) is another type of spoofing. The attacker redirects packets by poisoning the DNS. Finally, ARP spoofing (1.5.4.3) is used to perform attack like Man In the Middle, in order to dissociate legitimate IP and MAC addresses in the ARP tables of the victims.

Scanning/enumeration are an essential step for initiating attacks. During scanning (1.6), the attacker starts with searching the network for information such as, active nodes, the running operating system, software versions, etc. As defined in [59], scanning has many forms, using protocols such as TCP (1.6.1) or UDP (1.6.2). The last two examples of network attacks are media access control (MAC) address flooding (1.7), and VLAN hopping attack (1.8). In MAC flooding (1.7), the attacker is targeting the network switches and as a result, packets are redirected to the wrong physical ports, while the VLAN hopping attack has two forms either switch spoofing (1.8.1) or double tagging (1.8.2).

**4.1.2 Host Threats.** Host attacks target specific hosts or system by running malicious software to compromise the system functionalities or corrupt it. Most host attacks are categorized under the malware (2.1) category. This includes worms, viruses, adwares, spywares, Trojans and ransomware. Viruses are known to affect programs and files when shared with other users on the network while worms are known to self-replicate affecting multiple systems. Adwares are known for showing advertisements to users when surfing the Internet or installing software. Although adware are less likely to run malicious code, it can compromise the performance of a system. Spyware, gathers information such as documents, user cookies, browsing history, emails, etc. or monitor and track

user actions. Trojans often look like trusted applications, but allow the attacker to control the device. Last, ransomware are a relatively new type of malware where the system is kept under the control of the attacker - or a third entity - by encrypting the files until the user/organization pay a ransom [1].

*4.1.3 Software Threats.* Code injection (3.2) can include SQL Injection to query the database, resulting in obtaining confidential data, or deleting data by dropping columns, rows or tables. Cross-site scripting (XSS) is used to run malicious code to steal cookies or credentials. XSS have three main categories. The first is persistent/stored XSS (3.2.2.1), in this case the script is saved in the database and is executed every time the page is loaded. The second is Reflected XSS (3.2.2.2) in which the script is part of the HTTP requests sent to the server. The last is DOM-based XSS (3.2.2.3) which can be considered as an advanced type of XSS. The attacker changes values in the Document Object Model (DOM) e.g. document location, document url, etc. DOM-based XSS are difficult to detect as the script is never transferred to the server. Fingerprinting and misconfiguration are also forms of software threats. Fake server certificates (3.5) should be considered while building web applications or analysing communications.

*4.1.4 Physical Threats.* Physical attacks are a result of a tempering attempt on the network hardware (edge, or other devices) or its configuration. This can include changing the configurations (4.2) and to introducing backdoors (i.e. The Evil Maid).

*4.1.5 Human Threats.* The last category of networking attacks are the one based on human actions. These includes user masquerade (5.1). Phishing is another form of human attacks in which the attacker uses emails or other electronic messaging services to obtain credentials or confidential data. When a user attempts to take higher privileges it is considered a human attack like User to Root (5.3) and Remote to Local R2L (5.4). Additionally, a user can be denied an action such as repudiation (5.5) attack. Human attacks can also include session hijacking or sniffing, these attacks are based on the attacker gaining access over an active session to access to cookies and tokens.



Fig. 6. Distribution of Covered Attacks in Discussed IDSs

Based on the taxonomy discussed in Figure 5 and the recent IDS in Table 3, it can be seen that there are many threats that are not addressed by recent IDS. Figure 6 visualize all the threats mentioned in the taxonomy. The associated percentage represents the the attacks covered by the IDS discussed in Section 3.1, Table 3.1. As shown a large number of attacks are not covered.

#### 4.2 Attacking Tools

Many tools [59] [40] have been developed to initiate different attacks. Figure 7 show the main tools classified by the attacks they are used for. This can be used by researchers when building an IDS for a specific threat, then the associated tools are the ones of interest. For example, for an IDS classifying impersonation attacks, Caffe-Latte, Hirte, EvilTwin and Cain and Abel are the ones to check. Yaga and SQL attack are used for U2R and so on.

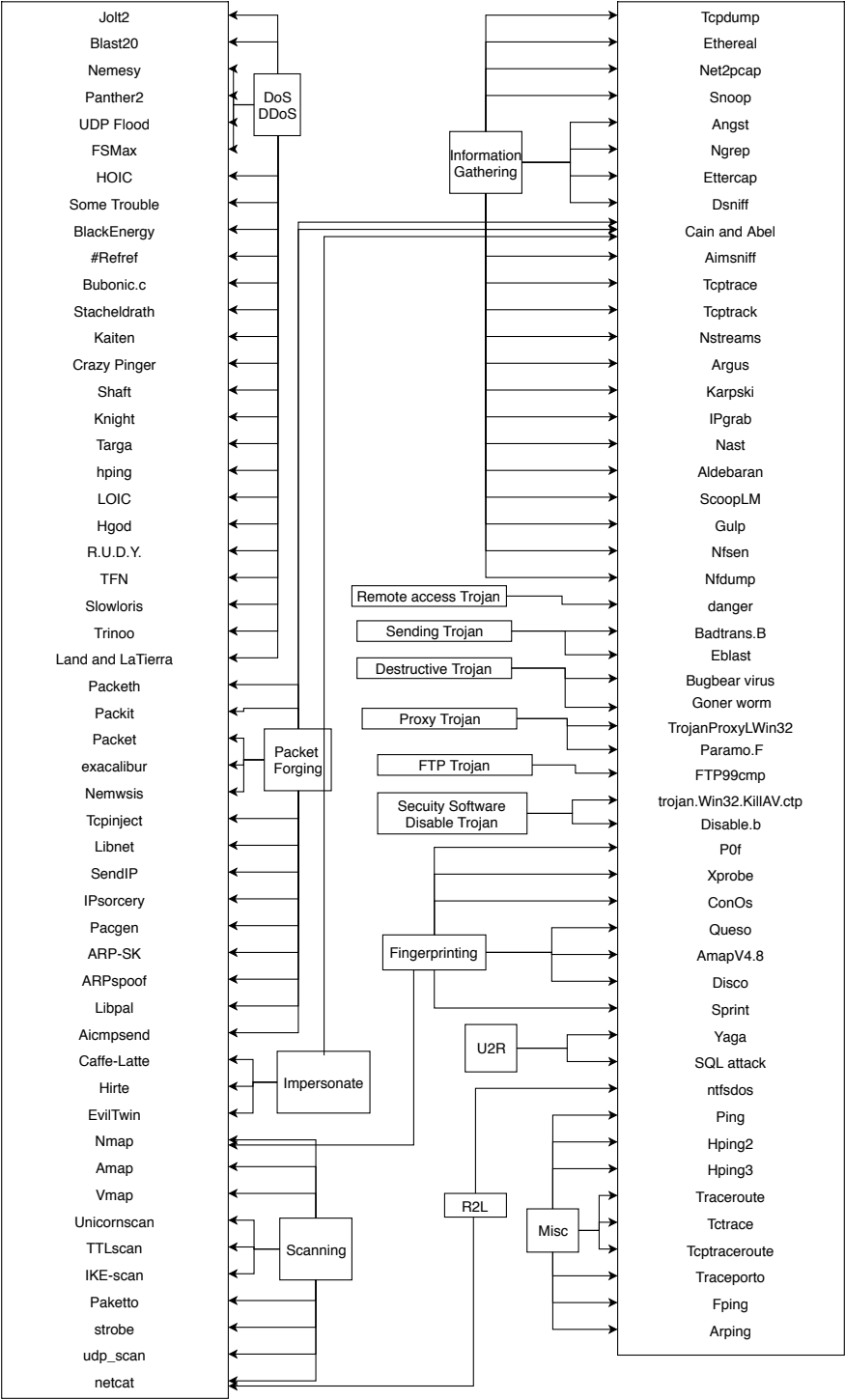


Fig. 7. Attacks Tools Example

## 5 CONCLUSION

This manuscript aims at providing an overview of intrusion detection system internals, the way they are expected to work, as well as evaluation criteria and classifications problems. Furthermore, the manuscript tackles the problem of having a generic taxonomy for network threats. A proposed taxonomy is presented for categorizing network attacks based on the source, OSI model layer and whether the threat is active or passive. The prominent IDS research of the past decade (2008 - 2018) are analyzed. The analysis results in three main findings. Benchmark datasets lack real world property and fail to cope with the constant changes in attacks and networks architectures.

Moreover, we present a taxonomy of tools and associated attacks, and demonstrate the current IDS research only cover around 25% of the threats presented in the taxonomy. Furthermore we highlight that, while machine learning is used by 97.25% of the surveyed IDS. ANN, k-means and SVM represent the majority of the algorithms used. While these algorithms present outstanding results, we also highlight that these results are obtained on outdated datasets and hence, not representative of real-world architectures and attack scenarios.

Finally, the network threat taxonomy and the attacks and associated tool taxonomy are open-sourced and available through Github, allowing both security and academic researchers to contribute to the taxonomy and ensure its relevance in the future<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup><https://github.com/AbertayMachineLearningGroup/network-threats-taxonomy>

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